

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

REMEMBERING THE VICTIMS OF THE S.S. "EASTLAND" DISASTER

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 2015

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I stand before you today to pay tribute to the victims of the S.S. *Eastland* disaster, which occurred in Chicago 100 years ago. On the centennial of this solemn event, the family of one of the victims, Anna Kubiak, will lay down a ceremonial wreath in remembrance of Anna and the other victims of the disaster. The S.S. *Eastland* Memorial dedication ceremony will take place at the Old Light-house Museum in Michigan City, Indiana, on July 25, 2015.

The S.S. *Eastland* disaster occurred on the morning of July 24, 1915, near the Clark Street Bridge in Chicago, Illinois. The S.S. *Eastland* was chartered by the Western Electric Company to transport employees, families, and friends across Lake Michigan to Michigan City for a day of celebration that was to include food, a parade, sporting events, and other festivities.

Unfortunately, the S.S. *Eastland* never left the Chicago River that tragic morning. While the S.S. *Eastland* was still docked, it slowly began to roll over into the river with more than 2,500 passengers and crew members on board. Eight hundred and forty-four people lost their lives in the disaster, including twenty-two complete families, and many more were injured. The immense loss sustained that day will be recalled by generations to come, and the tragedy of that fateful morning will be remembered as one of the most catastrophic maritime events in American history.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commemorating the centennial anniversary of the S.S. *Eastland* disaster. We honor the victims and their families as we remember this devastating day in our nation's history. I would like to commend the efforts of the many people who dedicated their time and efforts to make the S.S. *Eastland* Memorial dedication ceremony possible.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA'S MARION CLIFTON "M.C." DAVIS

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 2015

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the life and legacy of Northwest Florida's Marion Clifton "M.C." Davis, who lost his battle with lung cancer on July 11, 2015. A longtime resident of Walton County, Florida, M.C. had an abiding love for Northwest Florida. He dedicated much of his life to pre-

serving the Gulf Coast's natural beauty for current generations and future generations to come, and the Northwest Florida community mourns his passing.

Born October 18, 1944 in Douglas, Georgia, M.C. graduated with a Political Science degree from the University of North Carolina in 1970 and his J.D. from Samford Law School in 1973. After an immensely successful business career, which saw him pursue many different career paths, M.C. decided to use his success to help restore and preserve the land that he loved. Northwest Florida is blessed with immense biological and ecological diversity, with a high concentration of plants and wildlife alike, and in 2000, M.C. purchased more than 50,000 acres of land in Walton County to create the Nokuse Plantation, the largest privately held nature preserve east of the Mississippi River.

As a result of his dedication to conservation, M.C. has helped lead efforts to restore several native plant and animal species, including longleaf pine, which once blanketed millions of acres in the Southeast, and gopher tortoises, which are listed by the state as a threatened species. In addition, countless plants and animals from diverse parts of nature can be found on Nokuse Plantation, including eagles, ospreys, bobcats, foxes, raccoons and armadillos, among others. Indeed, M.C. has called this project a 300-year effort to help restore the full biological wealth bestowed on Northwest Florida.

Nokuse Plantation also sits in a critical area of Northwest Florida, serving as a link between several important sites, including Eglin Air Force Base Reserve, Blackwater River State Forest and the Conecuh National Forest. By helping to preserve this critical resource, Nokuse Plantation also helps ensure that sufficient base buffering exists to support critical military missions at Eglin Air Force Base.

In addition to his work establishing Nokuse Plantation, M.C. also founded the E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center. Located on the Nokuse Plantation, the E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center provides students in the 4th through 7th grades, as well as their teachers, the opportunity to study in one of the most biodiverse ecosystems in the United States. Each year, more than 5,000 students from across Northwest Florida study at the E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center, which helps integrate into the State of Florida's curriculum, particularly in the important Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) fields.

Throughout his life, M.C. touched the lives of many and without question, his generosity and commitment to nature will be felt in Northwest Florida for many generations to come. While many will remember M.C. for his dedication to preserving Northwest Florida's natural beauty, to those who knew him best, M.C. will be remembered as a loving husband, father, and grandfather.

On behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize the life of M.C. Davis. My wife Vicki and I extend our heartfelt prayers and condolences to his wife and high

school sweetheart, Stella; his children Crystal, Lisa, and Wendy; his granddaughters, Claire, Alex, Julia, Mary-Shelton; and the entire Davis family.

CELEBRATING ELOISE BRONAK'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 2015

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mrs. Eloise Bronak on her 100th Birthday, which she will be celebrating on July 28, 2015.

Eloise Bronak was born in Decatur, Illinois. She has lived in Texas and Michigan, and eventually settled in St. Clair, MO. For the past seven years, she has lived at Willow Brooke Assisted Living Facility in Union, MO. Eloise served our nation during World War II as a Navy nurse. In 1944, Eloise joined the Navy as a registered nurse, but was unable to serve overseas due to her height. "They wouldn't let me go overseas because I was too little—I couldn't stretch enough," she joked. "I was to take what was left over." During her service of three years in the Navy, Eloise took care of wounded soldiers who returned to the United States. After her time in the service, she continued to serve in the medical field by working in public health, at the medical department at Chrysler in St. Louis, MO, and in health care in St. Louis County. Eloise had the opportunity to see the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. with the Franklin County Honor Flight.

Birthdays are a very special time. It's a time to come together and celebrate your life and accomplishments and recognize the impact that you have had on the lives of those around you.

I ask you in joining me in recognizing Eloise Bronak on this momentous occasion.

RECOGNIZING VIETNAM VETERANS ON THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE START OF THE VIETNAM WAR

HON. DANIEL T. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 2015

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the veterans of the Vietnam War on the 50th anniversary of the start of the conflict.

U.S. ground combat operations began in South Vietnam in 1965, with the last troops being pulled out in May 1975. Over three and a half million Americans served in Vietnam during that period, and more than 58,000 lost

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